

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/726,012

Examiner

Mr. Terry K. Cecil

Applicant(s)

CHOO, KIM POH

Art Unit

1723

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the declaration of 5-7-2004 and telephonic interview of 6-2-2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are Claims 1-11 are allowed and will remain as numbered upon allowance.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 12-1-2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 6-2-2006.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

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Note: Claims 1-11 are allowed and will remain as numbered upon allowance.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with P. Boucher on 6-2-2006.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

- Claim 6, line 1, "4" has been replaced with —5—.
- Claim 3, line 1, "A." has been replaced with —A—.
- Specification, page 6, last line, "first" has been replaced with —second—.
- Specification, page 7, line 15, "1013" has been replaced with —10B—.
- Specification, page 8, line 22, "1013" has been replaced with —10B—.
- Specification, page 16, line 24, "3U" has been replaced with —30—.

Reasons for Allowance

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

- The closest cited art—Akiyama (U.S. 3,734,299) and Seaver et al. (U.S. 2,077,589)—fails to anticipate or render obvious, alone or in any proper combination, the filter chamber including three filter elements, wherein the second sides of the first and second elements are connected

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to the intermediate passage and the second side of the third filter and also the passage are connected to an outlet and including the claimed two alternately selectable configurations—within the filter device of claim 1. In Seaver, the filters take turns having their first sides being connected to the backwashing outlet 21 while the first sides of the other filters are connected to the inlet 14 and their second sides are connected to the intermediate passage 28. The intermediate passage is connected to the outlet. But never is a “third filter” connected to the outlet nor a first side of any of the filters connected to a first side of a “third filter” as required in the claimed alternately selectable configurations. In Akiyama, a first side of a first filter 18 is connected to the inlet 4 and a second side of the first filter is connected to an intermediate passage 22, which is connected to both an outlet 5 and a first side of a second filter 21. But neither a “third filter” nor the claimed alternately selectable configurations are taught.

- Note the references cited in the specification have also been cited on the attached form 892.

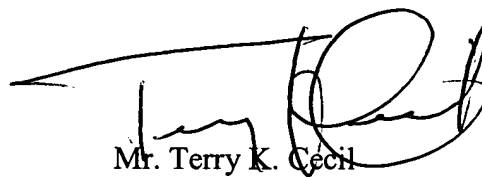
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee.

Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Contact Information:

- Examiner Mr. Terry K. Cecil can be reached at (571) 272-1138 at the Carlisle campus in Alexandria, Virginia for any inquiries concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner. Note that the examiner is on the increased flextime schedule but can normally be found in the office during the hours of 8:30a to 4:30p, on at least four days during the week M-F.
- Wanda Walker, the examiner's supervisor, can be reached at (571) 272-1151 if attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful.
- The Fax number for this art unit for official faxes is (571) 273-8300.
- Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Mr. Terry K. Cecil
Primary Examiner
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TKC
June 2, 2006